

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 9, 2005

**Senate Joint Resolution**

**No. 9**

**Introduced by Senator Morrow**

April 12, 2005

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Senate Joint Resolution No. 9—Relative to Medicare funding for military treatment facilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 9, as amended, Morrow. Retired military personnel: Medicare.

This measure would request that the Congress and the President of the United States support and enact legislation that would provide payment of Medicare funding to military treatment facilities for retired military personnel and their dependents who meet Medicare age standards.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The State of California has one of the largest  
2 retired military communities in the United States; and  
3 WHEREAS, California includes among its population over  
4 181,000 retired military personnel, in addition to their dependent  
5 families; and  
6 WHEREAS, These military retirees receive over \$285,000,000  
7 per month in retired military pay, which equates to over  
8 ~~\$3,400,000~~ \$3,400,000,000 annually, much of which provides for  
9 the daily living expenses of the retired military community and  
10 thus helps support the economy of the State of California; and  
11 WHEREAS, It is believed that the contributions of the retired  
12 military community to this state and nation are beyond most  
13 people's realization; and

1 WHEREAS, The importance of health care to our retired  
2 military community was recognized by Congress in the National  
3 Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law  
4 106-398) in a program titled “TRICARE For Life”; and

5 WHEREAS, TRICARE For Life substantially improves access  
6 to health care for most Medicare-eligible military retirees; and

7 WHEREAS, TRICARE For Life is a Medigap type  
8 wrap-around coverage; and

9 WHEREAS, When a Medicare-eligible military retiree uses a  
10 civilian facility, TRICARE For Life becomes the second payee to  
11 Medicare; and

12 WHEREAS, When the retiree uses a military treatment facility  
13 (MTF), Medicare pays nothing; and

14 WHEREAS, The addition of trained medical personnel and the  
15 authorization of Medicare funds for patients in a MTF could  
16 accommodate retired military personnel and their dependents and  
17 support active-duty military personnel and their dependents; and

18 WHEREAS, Providing Medicare funds to MTFs will provide  
19 jobs for qualified military and civilian medical personnel, which  
20 will assist the economy of this state; and

21 WHEREAS, Only the United States Congress can make good  
22 on the good faith promises recruiters made to those that served  
23 their country for at least 20 years on the understanding that, when  
24 they retired, they and their dependents would receive full health  
25 care for life; now, therefore, be it

26 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*  
27 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California  
28 respectfully requests the President and Congress of the United  
29 States to enact legislation recognizing the medical needs of  
30 retired military personnel and their dependents who meet  
31 Medicare age standards and provide Medicare funds directly to  
32 the MTF when an individual is in the hospital, so that, with the  
33 hiring of qualified medical personnel and the creation of new  
34 jobs, Medicare payments for private care will be reduced over the  
35 next decade; and be it further

36 *Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California  
37 supports the enactment of legislation to address these matters;  
38 and be it further

39 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
40 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United

1 States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority  
2 Leader of the Senate, each Senator and Representative from  
3 California in the Congress of the United States, the Chairpersons  
4 of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the House Armed  
5 Services Committee, and the Chairperson of each committee of  
6 the House of Representatives and the Senate for consideration of  
7 this legislation.

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